

## Section 319 Project Application Evaluation Criteria

Section 319 project applications will be ranked from 0 to 10, with 10 indicating the project application fulfills all of the criteria listed below.

### 1. NEED FOR THE PROJECT (0-10 points)

- Does the project application adequately describe and quantify the NPS problem or the water quality need to be addressed by the project?
- Is the need sufficient to warrant a project?
- Does this project meet the goals and objectives of Iowa's NPSMP, September 2000, page 78?
- If it is a watershed project, does the waterbody being addressed qualify as a priority water under Iowa's NPSMP, September 2000 (page 12)?
- If it is a watershed project, is the waterbody being addressed included on the final FY2004 or final FY2006 Section 303(d) list of impaired waters submitted to EPA for approval (category 5a and 5b of Iowa's Integrated Report) or in category 4a of Iowa's Integrated Report?
- Has a TMDL been developed or is one currently being developed? Based upon information in the TMDL, what are the major pollutant sources? How will this project attempt to address these sources?
- Have specific load reduction goals been identified through a TMDL or other measures?

### 2. SUITABILITY OF PROJECT MEASURES (0-10 points)

- Do the proposed project measures address all of the identified NPS or water quality problems?
- Are the proposed activities appropriate to address the problem(s)?
- Has the project targeted critical areas or problems?
- If a watershed project, does the project application list specific types and quantities of practices that will be used (i.e., terraces on 800 acres, no-till conservation tillage on 655 acres, etc.)?
- If a non-watershed project, does the application identify the specific activities to be conducted and expected results?
- Is an adequate information/education component included, both for watershed and non-watershed projects?

### 3. BUDGET (0-10 points)

- Is the budget comprehensive, providing information on all anticipated costs, including:
  - \* a list of BMPs offered and the cost share available for each BMP or other practice to be implemented, if applicable;
  - \* equipment, supplies, travel, salaries and fringe benefits;
  - \* Costs for information/education products or activities?
- Are all sources of funding identified, including sources other than Section 319, WSPF or WPF?

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- Is the budget cost-effective and reasonable considering the work activities being conducted?
4. **COMPREHENSIVE WORKPLAN (0-10 points)** - Does the project workplan do the following:
- provide a commitment, if a watershed project, to calculate load reductions on a annual basis, for nutrients and sediment as applicable;
  - adequately describe the problem and identify all pollutants and pollutant sources (for watershed projects);
  - adequately describe the activities that will be conducted to address the identified NPS or water quality problem(s);
  - include a reasonable time schedule and budget; and
  - are “measures of success” built into the workplan to help quantify results?
5. **POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS (0-10 points)** - Considering the following, does the project have a good chance of being successful:
- Is it of manageable size?
  - Are the proposed activities likely to result in water quality benefits, whether water quality benefits are direct (i.e., through installation of BMPs) or indirect (i.e., through increased knowledge of NPS pollution and changes in attitudes)? Are the proposed activities sufficient or appropriate to meet the project’s load reduction goals?
  - Is the workplan’s time schedule realistic?
  - Where appropriate, is there some potential for continuation of activities after the end of the formal project?
  - Is there an indication of willingness by landowners and/or others to participate in the project?
  - If a water quality improvement project was previously completed in the watershed, when did the project end, and what were the results and outcomes of the project? What changed to justify another water quality improvement project?
6. **OTHER PARTICIPATION (0-10 points)** - Does the application demonstrate the following:
- cooperation between state, federal and local agencies;
  - strong local participation by agencies and organizations (i.e., are local agencies and organizations willing to invest time and/or money for project activities)?